

The Chest of Joash (2 Chronicles 24:1-14)

Proposition: Our church can be renewed and restored by following the directions laid out for us in the account of young King Joash's Chest!

- I. Listen to the Reason for the Offering
 - A. For the Rebuilding of God's House (Vs. 4)
 - B. For the Restoring of God's House (Vs. 14)
- II. Learn from the Reaction to the Offering
 - A. Their Giving was in a Generous Abundance (Vs. 9-11)
 - B. Their Giving was in a Joyous Attitude (Vs. 10)
- III. Look at the Reception of the Offering
 - A. There was the Building of a Chest (Vs. 8)
 - B. There was the Bringing to the Chest (Vs. 10-11)

The Chest of Josiah (2 Chron. 24:1-14)

I read the story about a man that called the Church office and asked if he could speak to the Head Hog at the Trough. The secretary said "Who?" "I want to speak to the Head Hog at the Trough!" Now that she heard the man correctly the secretary said "Sir if you mean our pastor, I would appreciate it if you would speak of Him with more respect and refer to him as the 'Pastor' or 'Minister', but not the Head Hog at the Trough." The man replied "Okay, I will, but I have \$10,000 that I was thinking about giving to the building fund." The secretary then said, "Hold on a minute, I think the Big Pig just walked in the door." Well today I am coming to you as the Head Hog at the trough, I've been asking you to prepare for this offering for several months, in hopes that God would allow us to renew, refurbish and restore our sanctuary. Our text today, shows us what can happen when the people of God have a mind to restore the house of God. Our church can be renewed and restored by following the

I. Listen to the Reason for the Offering

Vs1 Tells us that Josiah was 7 when he took the throne. Vs2 Speaks of His testimony, During his reign, Josiah became disturbed and distressed

about the condition of the temple, vs 1 tells the sad tale

A. For the Rebuilding of God's House (vs 4)

Note the word "repair" = "to rebuild" you find that word in our text 3 times. The House of God had been ransacked and left in ruins. The beautiful building that King Solomon had built and dedicated had now been left in shambles, by destruction, desecration and defilement. This temple was the dwelling place of their God on earth and it had fallen into disarray, becoming reproached instead of respected. And Joash responded to this problem by calling for an offering ^{vs 6}

B. For the Restoring of God's House (vs. 14)

The house of God had not only been destroyed but it had been plundered. The consecrated and valuable vessels used for the worship of Jehovah had been stolen. With the money that was received they were able to restore these missing furnishings. This all originated in the heart of young King Joash and his love for God and the House of God. Our giving today is motivated by that same love of God and his house. I love this place. I've only been here a little over a year ³ and my heart is knit to it.

III. Learn from the Reaction to the Offering

This is the most stirring part of our story. Their reaction to the offering. Someone has said there are 3 kinds of givers, the flint, the

1) Following the three directions laid out for us in the account of young King Joash's Chest!

2) ...the sad tale of how sons of Athaliah had broken up the house of God. Athaliah is spoken of in verse 7 as a "wicked woman". She was the daughter of Ahab and Jezebel. It was a case of like mother like daughter. Our text indicates that at one point she had the Temple at Jerusalem ransacked and left in ruins. Joash, not only loved God, but also His House. Therefore he wanted to do something about the condition of the house of God. I want you to see two reasons why Joash took up this special offering:

3) ...is knit to Gethsemane Baptist Church. Some of you have been here on these pews for 20 and 30 years. Some have only been here a matter weeks. But this is a special place and when people walk into, I want them to know immediately that that we value what God has given us. And that we serve a God of beauty, holiness, and perfection. We may walk in the old paths, but we serve the great I am of the present.

1) To get anything out of a flint, you must hammer it. And then you only get chips and sparks. To get water out of a sponge you must squeeze it, and the more you use pressure, the more you will get. But the honeycomb just overflows with its own sweetness. These givers here in our text were honeycomb givers!

2) ...pennies that were found under a little girl's pillow when she died. The little girl wanted to enter a Sunday school in Philadelphia but was told that there was not enough room. She began saving her pennies to "help the Sunday school have more room." Two years later she became ill and died. They found a small pocket book under her pillow with fifty-seven pennies and a piece of paper that had the following note on it: "To help build the Little Temple bigger, so more children can come to Sunday school." The pastor shared the story with his congregation and the newspaper took the story across the country. Soon the pennies grew, and the outcome can be seen in Philadelphia today. There is a Church that will seat 3,300 persons, Temple University, Temple Hospital, and a large Temple Sunday school. It all began with fifty-seven cents and a little girl saving her pennies.

3) ...so that our sons and daughters will have a wonderful and beautiful place to worship in the next 35 years to come. 2 Corinthians 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

sponge, and the honeycomb. To get anything
A. Their Giving was in a Generous Abundance
(Vs 9-11) So ^{vs 9} the King set a date and time
for when this offering would take place.
So what was the result of their giving?

Vs 11. "Much money" + "money in abundance"
There was a huge amount of money taken up
for the work to the Temple. All the money
that was needed to rebuild and restore the
House of God came from the liberal, generous
and sacrificial giving of God's people. Some
may not have as much as others. I read a
story recently about 57 pennies that were found

B. Their Giving was in a Joyous Attitude
(Vs 10) Look at the attitude of their giving
They were not grumbling and complaining
but Joyous! Eln vs 6 notice that King Josiah
commanded the collection be taken according to
the commandment of Moses... This is in regard
to Moses receiving an offering for the tabernacle
in the wilderness. They were participating
in some thing historical. I imagine those
that began, founded and built this place we
worship in today, gave sacrificially and
joyously. It is time that we give so that our

III. Look at the Reception of the Offering
This offering was received differently than
any other offering in the Bible. There
were no offering plates passed, no envelopes

distributed. Joash had a unique way to receive

A. There was the Building of a Chest (Vs. 8)

Let's look at verse 8. There was an order from the king to build a chest. No one really knows exactly what the chest actually looked like. The word chest may give us an idea. The word speaks of a box or coffin.

① Gen 50: 26 The word "coffin" is the same word translated "chest" in our story. ② Ex 25: 10 The word "ark" is the same Hebrew word translated "chest in our text". The word itself paints the picture of a simple box or chest something similar to the one you see here today.

B. There was the Bringing to the Chest (Vs. 10-11)

This chest sat outside the entrance into the House of God and the people came by and placed their offering into the chest. Vs 11 tells us that the chest was filled, then emptied and then put back into its place. This went on day by day until everyone had given. In similar fashion we will receive our offering today. Instead of passing the plates as we normally do, I will ask each of you to, as my preacher used to say it, "Put your chest in the chest" ③

IV. Closing - I hope we all give generously

and joyfully. But no amount of giving can compare to the gift God gave in his Son who died for our sins. If you have never received this ④

- 1) Genesis 50:26, *"So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt."*
- 2) Exodus 25:10, *"And they shall make an ark of shittim wood: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof."*
- 3) ...best in the chest." We will give today for the same reason they gave. We will give today in the same fashion as they gave.
- 4) ...received this gift, I'd like to ask you to come and we will take the bible and show you how you can be saved from your sins and have eternal life through the Lord Jesus.